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ANNUAL REPORT

To May, 1871.

TO THE MEMBERS OF

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.

The Officers and Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art respectfully present to the Association their first annual report :

RECEIPTS.

1870.		
May 10.	Subscription from Robert Gordon.....	\$ 500.00
1871.		
March 16.	“ “ John Sneden.....	500.00
	Which amounts were deposited in the National City Bank.	
Jan. 27.	Loan from the Bank of America.....	5,000.00
	Total Receipts,	<u>6,000.00</u>

EXPENDITURES.

1870.		
July 18.	Bill of James E. Munson, for reporting meeting of May 25, 1870.....	\$ 20.00
Aug. 22.	George F. Nesbitt & Co., stationery for Treasurer,	50.25
Oct. 6.	Union Printing Co., for 1,500 copies of Report ...	112.17
“ 20.	W. Felt & Co., stationery for Secretary.....	70.03
Nov. 12.	Union Printing Co., circulars of initial proceedings,	13.25
“ 25.	Warburton, Bonyng, Underhill & Munson, taking notes of Trustee's Meeting.....	20.00
Feb. 13.	Tiffany & Co., sundries.....	37.75
“ 18.	Theo. Weston, Secretary, for office rent, etc.....	1,069.16
March 1.	Union Printing Co., notices.....	2.20
“ 10.	Francis & Loutrel, stationery, etc., to Mr. Weston,	164.15
1871.		
March 25.	George F. Comfort, services and expenses.....	191.82
“ 31.	Trow & Smith Mfg. Co., printing ballots	20.03
April 21.	Campbell H. Young, expenses to Albany.....	13.00
“ 25.	Francis & Loutrel, subscription books, etc.....	84.50
May 3.	George F. Comfort, services to May 1.....	79.17
		<u>1,947.48</u>

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK,
In account with S. G. WARD, Treasurer.

Dr. 1870-1871.

To payments as per schedule.....	\$ 1,947.48
May 4, '71. " balance on hand in City Bank.....	1,000.00
" " balance on hand in Bank of America.....	3,052.52
	6,000.00

Cr. 1870.

May 10. By cash.....	\$ 500.00
Jan. 27, '71. " loan from Bank of America.....	5,000.00
Mar. 16, " cash.....	500.00
	6,000.00
May 4, " balance of former account.....	\$ 4,052.52

At the annual meeting of the Association, held on the 9th of May, 1870, the present officers and Board of Trustees were elected.

On the 24th of May, next ensuing, the first quarterly meeting of the Trustees was held at the residence of the President, John Taylor Johnston, when, according to the provisions of the Constitution, the Trustees elected proceeded to classify themselves by lot and to elect the standing committees for the year.

The Executive Committee was instructed to prepare for distribution a pamphlet containing the Charter, the Constitution, and the reports of the several committees, which have been read at the annual meeting.

A special committee was appointed to prepare a design for a seal.

Authority was given the Executive Committee to expend a sum of money not to exceed \$10,000.

At a special meeting of the Trustees, June 25th, it was announced that subscriptions had been made to the amount of \$28,900.

At the second quarterly meeting, adjourned over to November 7th, a report from the Executive Committee laid before the Trustees the fact of the purchase in Europe by Wm. T. Blodgett of a valuable collection of 174 pictures, and an offer of Mr.

Blodgett to transfer them to the Museum. A committee of nine was appointed to consider the desirability of buying them, the possibility of raising the necessary funds, and the manner of exhibition if acquired.

The Committee reported on the 19th November, accompanying their report by statements of experts, and particulars respecting the pictures, and concluding that it was unadvisable to ask money for this or for any other special purpose ; but that every effort should be made to raise such a sum as would guarantee the success of the Institution, and that when this should be done, the purchase in question would be wholly advisable.

A letter from J. Augustus Johnson tendered the gift of an ancient sculptured marble sarcophagus at Tarsus.

In January, 1871, the Executive Committee considered the liberal offer of Tiffany & Co., of a portion of their building for a Loan Exhibition of works of art, but felt obliged to decline the offer, with thanks.

In the same month the Executive Committee appointed a sub-committee to consider the best means of rousing public interest and giving general information to the public in regard to our enterprise.

February 11th, 1871, a meeting was held to consider the draft of an act providing for a grant from the city of money and a site for the erection of buildings for the two museums—of Art, and of Natural History. The subject was referred to a committee of three, to act as a joint committee of the two museums, provided the Museum of Natural History should appoint the same : the committee to have power to complete the draft of the proposed bill, to confer with the Commissioners of Public Parks, and to present the matter to the Legislature.

A number of gentlemen interested in the objects of the Museum were named proper to be requested to assist the Trustees in procuring subscriptions and in other ways.* The amount reported subscribed was stated to be \$82,950.

On the 25th February, the Committee on Legislation reported progress. The subscriptions at this date had reached \$94,950.

* Not formally requested till after the meeting of March 3, 1871. See below.

The Executive Committee was instructed to prepare an address to the public, setting forth the purposes, claims and prospects of the Museum, with the object of influencing subscription.

On March 3d, 1871, at an adjourned meeting of the Trustees, it was announced that the collection of pictures mentioned above was now held by Messrs. John Taylor Johnston and Wm. T. Blodgett, and was offered to the Trustees at cost, with guarantees of the genuineness of each and every picture, the purchase being conditional on raising the necessary funds. It was resolved that the Trustees should make the purchase on these terms, and the Executive Committee was empowered to take the steps necessary to complete the transaction and hasten the transport of the pictures to New York.

The following gentlemen were selected as a conference committee, in accordance with the suggestion at the meeting on February 11th, viz: W. L. Andrews, W. S. Andrews, Daniel F. Appleton, Samuel P. Avery, Richard Butler, Wm. C. Church, Smith Clift, Samuel J. Colgate, Jonathan Edgar, H. C. Fahnestock, Josiah M. Fiske, John A. C. Gray, Marcellus Hartley, Christian Herter, Chas. H. Isham, Hermann Knapp, Henry G. Marquand, F. H. Otis, Jas. W. Pinchot, Wm. H. Raynor, Jas. Renwick, John H. Sherwood, Chas. Stewart Smith, Anson Phelps Stokes, Douglas Taylor, Salem H. Wales, Stephen C. Williams, John A. Weeks.

On the 11th of March the Trustees and the Conference Committee met conjointly at the residence of Mr. Blodgett. The proposed address to the public was read in its complete form and ordered to be printed for general distribution and presentation to the Legislature.

Messrs. Blodgett, of the Trustees, and Sherwood, Gray and Andrews, of the committee, were designated to proceed to Albany and urge the bill before the Legislature.

It was announced that the subscription had reached the sum of \$110,000.

At the quarterly meeting, March 23d, amendments to the Constitution were proposed and referred for further consideration to a committee of three. This committee reported March

28th, and the proposed amendments being agreed upon, it was ordered that they be printed and sent to all the members of the Association as amendments proposed by the Trustees for adoption at the approaching annual meeting. A list of gentlemen was offered to the Trustees for nomination for membership of the Association.

The amount of subscriptions had reached \$115,600.

On the 5th of April, at a meeting of the officers and the Conference Committee, it was announced by the above-named Committee on Legislation—Messrs. Blodgett, Sherwood, Gray and Andrews, that the grant of \$500,000 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and of an equal sum to the American Museum of Natural History, together with rights to the necessary ground, had been incorporated in the general bill of appropriations for the Public Parks, and that this bill had been passed and to-day signed by the Governor.

The subscriptions to the fund had amounted to nearly \$130,000.

The Trustees, Officers, and Conference Committee, met on the 3d of May at the house of the President.

The resignations of Messrs. J. Q. A. Ward and Eastman Johnson as trustees, were accepted, and Messrs. Richard Butler and H. G. Marquand were elected to fill the vacancies so made, and to hold office until May, 1872, and May, 1874, respectively.

The President announced the formation of ten committees, formed from the Officers, Trustees, and Conference Committee, consisting of from five to seven persons each, including altogether fifty-three gentlemen, whose combined effort should complete the needed minimum amount of \$250,000. These committees declared their willingness to pledge themselves to raise different amounts of money, varying from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The sum thus pledged, together with the fund already subscribed, considerably exceeded the required \$250,000.

Up to the time of the last mentioned meeting of the Trustees, the Executive Committee had assembled very frequently, and thus, and also through various sub-committees, had done most of the initiatory work of the Museum, and their labors were inevit-

ably absorbed by the subsequent and resulting action of the Board of Trustees.

The last meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the 6th of May, having been called to consider the best manner of proceeding in the business of procuring plans for building.

The Commissioners of Public Parks had desired the Trustees of the Museum to communicate to them their opinions and wishes in regard to buildings to be erected in Manhattan Square.

It was resolved that ten gentlemen, among whom should be all the architects (seven in number) who were members and had contributed to the fund, should be requested to act as a committee to report to the Executive Committee, and that this committee of ten be instructed to consider the whole question and ascertain how far an agreement can be reached as to the nature, style, distribution, and general arrangement of the buildings, for the two Museums. The Secretary has since received notice that this committee has been requested by the Museum of Natural History, to represent that Institution as well; Mr. Howard Potter being requested to act with them.

From time to time the insertion of articles in our most influential daily papers has been procured, calling the favorable attention of the public to the progress of our enterprise. Some of these articles have been written by members of the Board of Trustees, others have been merely suggested in substance; but all have been adapted to their purpose, and, it is believed, very useful. It is intended to continue this method of preserving the public interest. This, and the preparation of pamphlets, addresses and the like, have been in the hands of a special committee.

The subject of a Loan Exhibition has been confided to another special committee, which will undoubtedly be re-appointed or replaced by a similar one for the coming year. It is thought that a Loan Exhibition would produce great results in the way of exciting interest in art, and conveying sound ideas of what a permanent collection of works of art should be and might be made. The decision of the Trustees respecting this Loan Exhibition is, however, that it should not be begun before some part of the permanent buildings should be ready for use.

For the general aim which the Trustees have kept before

them, and the opinions which they hold in regard to the proper organization and the choice of departments in which collections should be formed, the Trustees refer to their already printed addresses and papers. It is their conviction, however, that the greatest and most important task before them is the proper decision of these points; that as the last year's work has been the secure founding of the Museum; the next year's work will be the critical examination of many matters and points of artistic excellence, education, and importance in building upon the foundation.

NEW YORK, May 8th, 1871.

By order,

JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON,

President.

THEODORE WESTON,

Secretary.